MR. K. MAHOMED (*Alwaye*): May I know from the member whether it is a minor or a major item of work?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer*): It is a major work.

MR. K. MAHOMED (*Alwaye*): May I know whether, in view of the growing commercial importance of the place, Government feel the necessity of constructing the bridge?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer*): From what I can see, at least Rs 5 or 6 lakhs is necessary for the construction of the bridge.

Road to Veliyathunad Kara.

192. ✻**MR. K. MAHOMED** (*Alwaye*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether there is any representation from the people of the Veliyathunad and Aduvathuruthi *karas* in the Airoor *pakuthi* to open a road to Veliyathunad *kara* proper from the Alwaye-Parur road;

(*b*) if so, what action has been taken in the matter; and

(*c*) whether there is any village road passing through these places?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer*): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The Sub-Division Officer, Alwaye, has been asked to report on this.

(*c*) Yes.

MR. K. MAHOMED (*Alwaye*): May I know whether that report has been submitted to Government?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer*): Sir, I could not hear the question.

PRESIDENT: "Whether the report has been received." Is it the question?

MR. K. MAHOMED (*Alwaye*): Yes, Sir.

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer*): I have not received the report as yet.

Mahomedan Holidays.

193. ✻**MR. K. MAHOMED** (*Alwaye*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether the special Mahomedan holiday and the public holiday in connection with the last Ramzan were given to all public offices and educational institutions of the State;

(*b*) whether His Highness the Maha Raja's College for Women in Trivandrum and the St. Mary's English High School at Alwaye, were working on the 5th of Makaram 1109; and

(*c*) if these institutions were working on that day, why they did not give the holiday sanctioned by the Government on that day in connection with the Ramzan?

MR. R. M. STATHAM (*Director of Public Instruction*): (*a*) Yes, with a few exceptions.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Mainly because there were no Mahomedan pupils or teachers in those institutions.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

MR. K. MAHOMED (*Alwaye*): May I know whether any other educational institution or public office had work on the 5th of Makaram 1109?

MR. R. M. STATHAM (*Director of Public Instruction*): Yes, a few had. I think I should explain the position. The Colleges, for example, have their own holidays. They do not have the same holidays as the other educational institutions. The aided institutions also have their own holidays. They make the list of their own holidays and they are approved by the Department from time to time. Therefore, the holidays enjoyed by the Colleges, the aided institutions and the Departmental institutions cannot coincide.

MR. K. MAHOMED (*Alwaye*): May I know whether any educational institution or public office in the State works either on Christmas or Onam holidays?

MR. R. M. STATHAM (*Director of Public Instruction*): I do not think that on Christmas day any school works. But during part of the Onam holidays, some schools work.

MR. K. MAHOMED (*Alwaye*): May I know whether the member is aware that Ramzan is as important to Muslims as Christmas and Onam to the Christians and Hindus respectively?

MR. R. M. STATHAM (*Director of Public Instruction*): Yes, I am.

MR. K. MAHOMED (*Alwaye*): May I know the total number of Muslim holidays sanctioned by Government?

MR. R. M. STATHAM (*Director of Public Instruction*): I think it is two.

PRESIDENT: That question does not arise.

MR. K. MAHOMED (*Alwaye*): Will the Government be pleased to take the necessary action to enforce the observance of at least these two Mahomedan holidays?

MR R. M. STATHAM (*Director of Public Instruction*): Sir, am I to understand that in schools in which there are no Mahomedan pupils or teachers this rule should be forced to be observed?

War Service men in the Public Works Department.

194. ***MR. M. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI** (*Karunagapalli*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they are giving any special consideration to War Service men when promotions are recommended; and

(*b*) if so, whether War Service men in the Public Works Department do receive such a favour?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) No. But they enjoy the benefit of the concessions granted to them in the matter of counting their periods of service on foreign duty for promotion, leave, increment, etc.

(*b*) Does not arise.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly